

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COLOMB 00117 121010Z

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FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4024

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

CINCPAC

COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 117

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MILI

SUBJECT: TEMPO OF FOREIGN NAVAL SHIP VISITS PICK UP

1. FOLLOWING A YEAR OF LIMITED NAVAL SHIP VISITS IN 1975, MAINLY AMERICAN, TEMPO OF VISITS PICKED UP IN DECEMBER 1975 AND STAYS HIGH IN JANUARY 1976. SOVIETS HAD FOUR SHIPS VISITS IN DECEMBER INCLUDING TWO BY SPACE VEHICLE RECOVERY SHIP (SSVRS) DIXON AT BEGINNING AND END OF MONTH. SOVIET OILER VISITED DECEMBER 14-16 AND SOVIET LST 514 WAS IN COLOMBO DECEMBER 16-30 WITH ONE-WEEK TRIP TO TRANSPORT SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO MALDIVES THAN OUT OF MIDDLE. THIS COMPARES WITH TWO VISITS BY ONE SSVRS DURING REST OF YEAR.

2. JANUARY WILL BE MONTH FOR REGIONAL NAVIES WITH VISITS BY OUR IRANIAN NAVY SHIPS JANUARY 11-14 AND FIVE INDIAN SHIPS JANUARY 29-FEBRUARY 2. IRANIAN GROUP CONSISTS OF 2 DESTROYERS, FRIGATE AND OILER. VISIT IS PART OF SWING AROUND INDIAN
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PAGE 02 COLOMB 00117 121010Z

OCEAN INCLUDING SINGAPORE, MALDIVES AND SEYCHELLES. WE UNDERSTAND INDONESIA, AUSTRALIA AND BOMBAY WERE

ALSO TO BE INCLUDED IN ITINERARY BUT THESE HAVE NOW
BEEN CUT OUT. DETAILS OF IRANIAN GROUP HAVE BEEN
REPORTED IN DATT CHANNELS.

3. FIVE-SHIP INDIANNAVY GROUP CONSISTS OF THREE
PETYA-CLASS DESTROYERS AND TWO FOXTROT SUBMARINES
FROM EASTERN FLEET REPORTEDLY TRANSITING FROM
BOMBAY TO MADRAS.
PERKINS

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NNN

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